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**Welcome to the Montana Primary Care
Office (MTPCO) News**

This newsletter is intended to communicate information of interest to CHCs, RHCs, NHSC sites and other partners regarding shortage designation activities, NHSC and J-1 activities and other matters of interest to partners. We welcome your input and recommendations regarding content.

**National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
Information Updates**

The NHSC Scholarship Program 2009 Application Cycle has just closed. The application deadline was April 6, 2009. **NHSC Vacancy Listing:** Health centers submit a vacancy list with their NHSC R&R Assistance application and may update their vacancy list through the NHSC's Recruitment, Training, and Support Center (RTSC) at 1-877-313-1823. The NHSC vacancy list is posted on the NHSC Opportunity List Web site <http://nhscjobs.hrsa.gov/> for use not only by NHSC clinician participants, but by any clinician who visits the NHSC site. Health centers can update their vacancy lists at any time. In order to maximize opportunities for recruitment, it is in the best interests of the health center to ensure this vacancy list is accurate and current.

SAVE THE DATE 2009 NHSC AMBASSADORS TRAINING CONFERENCE "Primary Need...Extraordinary Opportunity"
Hyatt Regency Crown Center, Kansas City, MO June 18–20, 2009 Please join the National Health Service Corps

(NHSC) for the Annual Ambassadors Training Conference on June 18–20, 2009 in Kansas City, Missouri. This year's conference will provide Ambassadors with the opportunity to learn in-depth about NHSC programs and opportunities, participate in recruitment training sessions, familiarize themselves with their volunteer role and responsibilities, and strengthen their individual Ambassador programs around the country. Our goal is to have every Ambassador trained through conference attendance.

**American Recovery and
Reinvestment Act of 2009 (AARA)
Brings Additional Money to NHSC
Loan Repayment Program to Re-open in
April 2009.**

The section of the Act relevant to the NHSC reads as follows: \$500,000,000 to address health professions workforce shortages, of which \$75,000,000 for the National Health Service Corps shall remain available through September 30, 2011:

The PCO was informed on a recent conference call that the **Loan Repayment Applications will Re-open**

in April 2009 will remain open on a “Rolling Cycle”. Basically- ever 2 or 3 months the NHSC will “review the applications in they recieve” and make additional awards. The Act states, that funds may be used to provide scholarships, loan repayment, and grants to training programs for equipment as authorized in the PHS Act, and grants authorized in sections 330L, 747, 767 and 768 of the PHS Act: Provided further, that 20 percent of the funds allocated to the National Health Service Corps shall be used for field operations. Of this \$500 million, \$300 million is slated for the NHSC.

HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse launches revised site

On March 19th, 2009 HRSA Geospatial Data Warehouse (HGDW) launched a revised website. To see the complete redesign of the site, go to datawarehouse.hrsa.gov The site now includes quick access to reports and maps, as well as *HRSA at a Glance*. Open the link to see a detailed description of the [new features and changes](#). If you are interested in training on the redesigned website, please send an email that includes your name, organization, and phone number to jbaitty@hrsa.gov.

New Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Assistance Application

A new version of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Multi-Year Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Assistance “Site” Application is required when updating site applications. The application and instructions can be found on the NHSC web site; <http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/applications/rraa.asp>.

Shortage Designations

Current Pending designations:

Primary Care

- Musselshell County
- Stillwater County

Dental Health

- Beaverhead LI

Mental Health

- Beaverhead
- Broadwater
- Eastern Montana RSA
- Sweet Grass
- Big Horn
- Granite
- Northern Montana RSA
- Deer Lodge

For More Information about Shortage Designations please visit the shortage designation website:

<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>

Miscellaneous Happenings

PCO Contact Information:

As always, if you need additional information about the NHSC, shortage designations or foreign medical graduates, please don't hesitate to contact me at the address or telephone number listed below:



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<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Primary-Care/primary-care-index.shtml>